

1-26-2012

Battlefield Commemoration

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Recommended Citation

Anonymous (2002) "Battlefield Commemoration," *Canadian Military History*: Vol. 11: Iss. 3, Article 8.
Available at: <http://scholars.wlu.ca/cmh/vol11/iss3/8>

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Battlefield Commemoration

The Canadian Battle of Normandy Foundation (CBNF) is developing two battlefield viewing areas in Normandy. The first is located at Point 67, the northern spur of Verrieres Ridge south of Caen. The viewing area was a joint project of the Toronto Scottish Regiment and the CBNF and opened in July 2000. On 25 July 2002 a plaque commemorating the Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada and its part in Operation "Spring" was unveiled by a delegation of veterans and current members of the Regiment. Two guides employed by the Foundation at the Canadian Memorial Garden, le Memorial, Caen helped to organize the ceremony and spoke on behalf of the Foundation in both official languages.

The second project, at St. Lambert-sur-Dives, was made possible by a gift of the family of John Cleghorn, Chancellor of Wilfrid Laurier University. M. Jacques Longuet des Diguères, who as a boy of 14 witnessed the battle to close the Trun-Chambois gap, donated the land. The site will be officially opened on 8 May 2003 but an unofficial and informal ceremony took place on 21 August 2002 on the side above the village where Major David Currie of the South Alberta Regiment won the Victoria Cross in 1944.

It is the hope of the Foundation that other units of the Canadian Army will place plaques at the Point 67 and St. Lambert-sur-Dives viewing areas to honour their roles in the battles of Verrieres Ridge and the closing of the Falaise gap-



The Toronto Scottish Regiment Memorial at Point 67. The view is to the west over the Orne River Valley.

The Black Watch plaque with a map of the battalion's role in Operation "Spring." The map is oriented to the south in the direction of the attack.



) *Canadian Military History*, Volume 11, Number 3, Summer 2002, pp.79-80.



Above left: The three-dimensional map of the Trun-Chambois gap oriented to the east to conform with the view of the battlefield. Canadian, Polish, American and French forces are indicated, as well as the escape routes of the German army.

Above right: The informal ceremony, August 2002. Left to right: Terry Copp, Patti Cleghorn, John Cleghorn, M. Jacques Longuet des Diguères, LCol David Patterson. LCol Patterson is the Foundation's liaison with the contractors developing the site which will include a parking area and will be wheel chair accessible.

The view from the St. Lambert-sur-Dives "Belvedere," overlooking the spot where Major David Currie won his Victoria Cross.

